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STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State/Territory: South Carolina

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Procedures for Scheduling and Conduct of Standard Surveys

The State has in effect the following procedures for the scheduling and conduct of standard surveys to assure that it has taken all reasonable steps to avoid giving notice.

It is the policy of the S. C. State Survey and Certification Agency to have unannounced surveys for all providers and suppliers (other than hospitals), except as indicated. While the unannounced surveys may result in some minor survey problems, this policy represents changing public attitudes and expectations toward compliance surveys.

Exception: Non-long term care facilities other than laboratories and home health agencies may be given advance notice (usually no more than 2 working days before an impending survey) if the following two criteria are met:

The facility is inaccessible via conventional travel means and it is necessary to make special or extraordinary travel arrangements; and -

There is a high probability that the staff essential to the survey process will be absent or the facility will be closed unless the survey is announced.

Monthly schedules are prepared by the program manager and maintained in a secured location. The week's survey schedule is reviewed with survey staff at the beginning of each week. Staff have a signed statement in their personnel folders which indicates the policy of unannounced visits has been reviewed with them as well as the disciplinary action to be taken should they not abide by the agency's policy.

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